




STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 24, 2015
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Brian J. Whiston, Chairman 
SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Section 32p Grants

For Fiscal Year 2015-2016, Section 32p of the State School Aid Act, Public Act 85 of 2015 provides funding for intermediate school districts (ISDs) or consortia of ISDs to provide fiscal oversight and programming for the Great Start Collaboratives and Great Start Parent Coalitions, Early Childhood Programming, and Home Visiting. The Section 32p Grants are distributed to ISDs as the fiscal agents, with the intent of ensuring that coordination occurs across early childhood programs and services, driven by the voices of parents.

The Office of Great Start (OGS) provides oversight for the Section 32p Grants. Public Act 85 of 2015 further refines legislative direction, providing the Department with the ability to implement an equitable distribution of the funds, and aligns the expected outcomes for these funds with those assigned to the OGS:

- Children born healthy;
- Children healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade;
- Children developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry; and
- Children prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for Section 32p Grants as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2015.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Section 32p Grants

The State Board of Education has adopted as its mission "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

SBE MISSION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

This grant supports the mission, priorities, and/or policies of the State Board of Education (SBE) and/or Michigan Department of Education (MDE).

The Michigan State Board of Education has adopted two overarching priorities to ensure substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement in pursuit of the above stated mission. This grant supports the SBE Mission to assure that all students graduate ready for careers, college, and community by focusing resources and building capacity at the community level to create systems of support for Michigan's youngest children. Specifically, the Section 32p Grants support MDE's Priority 3 (i.e., increase the number of children who are reading at grade level by the end of third grade).

PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Type of Grant Program:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formula |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated in Legislation or MDE Proposal | |

The purpose of the Section 32p Grants is to ensure local coordination and expansion of infrastructure and programming. The ultimate purpose is to ensure that children are born healthy; that they are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade; that they are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry; and, that they are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

Highly effective Great Start Collaboratives (GSCs) and Great Start Parent Coalitions (GSPCs) work together to build and reform the local early childhood system to achieve better outcomes for young children and their families, ultimately ensuring the outcomes that were anticipated when the Office of Great Start (OGS) was developed, and building the local system that can address the implementation of recommendations provided in the OGS boilerplate report, *Great Start, Great Investment, Great Future*.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: August 13, 2013

Source of Criteria:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Federal Law, Rules or Regulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Proposed by Staff** |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. State Law or Rules* | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Defined in MDE's Approved Grant Proposal to the Funder ¹ |

Criteria for Formula Distribution of Funds for Section 32p Grants

The State School Aid Act, Public Act 85 of 2015, directs the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to determine the formula for the equitable distribution of the funds for the Section 32p Grants. Use of the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds for purposes outlined in federal statute and the state's application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services supports coordinating activities of the GSCs/GSPCs.

The proposed formula:

- incorporates funds identified from sources appropriated at the state level;
- applies a base amount for each of the eligible intermediate school district fiduciaries of the Great Start Collaboratives;
- identifies an amount of the remaining funds for programming, distributed by factoring a percentage of the overall state and the GSC area population of birth through age 5 to the funds designated; and
- reserves any legislated portion(s) dedicated to targeted initiatives for distribution based on the need and capacity of the intermediate district in the context of statewide need.

Criteria for Use of Funds for Section 32p Grants

Great Start Collaboratives and Great Start Parent Coalitions have been operating statewide since 2006, with oversight established in 2012-2013 with the MDE, OGS. In 2013, funding for GSCs and GSPCs was combined with long-standing funding for early childhood services into the Section 32p Grants. Each intermediate school district or consortium of intermediate school districts that receives funding must:

- convene a local Great Start Collaborative and a Parent Coalition to ensure the coordination and expansion of local early childhood infrastructure and programs that allow every child in the community to achieve the OGS outcomes;*
- convene a workgroup to serve as a school readiness advisory committee as required under guiding legislation for the Great Start Readiness Program;*
- convene workgroups to make recommendations about community services to ensure the OGS outcomes and ensure that the local Great Start system includes supports for children birth through age 8 in physical health, social-emotional health, family supports and basic needs, parent education, and early education and care;*

- forward its approved multi-year strategic plan, including activities and initiatives to be accomplished over the course of the plan toward achieving the four OGS outcomes, including an annual strategy to assure that children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry;**
- support a Director for each GSC who is exclusively designated to the coordination of the GSC for at least three-fourths time, and provide for leadership in convening (by a parent or parents) for each GSPC, staffed at least one-half time;**
- provide additional supports necessary for local staff and supports for parents, such as reimbursement for travel, child care expenses and honoraria to ensure sufficient parent participation in each Great Start Collaborative's planning and implementation efforts;**
- use funds to support projects identified by the Great Start Collaborative's strategic plan to improve and reform the early childhood system to be more effective, efficient, and able to better serve families and young children;**
- intentionally transition from offering programs and supports that may be promising practices in achieving the outcomes to offering programs for children from birth through age 8 that are evidence-based, integrated into the GSC's strategic plan, and implemented with fidelity to a research-based model;**
- annually report to the department on activities actually provided and children and families served;* and
- provide a cost-effective budget with no more than 10 percent administrative cost when budgeting state aid funds, and not exceeding the allowable indirect cost rate when budgeting federal funds.**

Criteria for Use of Funds for Providing Home Visits

Section 32p of the State School Aid Act for 2015-2016 includes funding for ISDs or consortium of ISDs, as fiscal agents, to designate funds to implement home visits for families and their at-risk children birth through age 8. The goals of home visits funded with Section 32p Grants shall be to improve school readiness, reduce the number of pupils retained in grade level, and reduce the number of pupils requiring special education services. Each ISD or consortium of ISDs that designate funding for the purpose of providing home visits to at-risk children and their families must:

- develop and submit for approval a locally coordinated, family-centered, evidence-based, data-driven home visit strategic plan;*
- select home visit program models that exhibit evidence in achieving improved school readiness;**
- ensure the program implementation is coordinated with the continuum of local home visit initiatives, serving families prenatally through kindergarten entry;**
- adhere to the terms and reporting requirements as outlined in Public Act 291 of 2012;** and
- annually report to the department an evaluation of home visits including the degree to which school readiness was improved, any change in the number of pupils retained at grade level, and any change in the number of pupils receiving special education services.*

- ¹ Defined in the State Plan for the Child Care and Development Block Grant
* Criteria Defined in Statute
** Criteria Proposed by Staff

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS / TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Intermediate school districts or consortia of intermediate school districts will be offered funding. The local needs assessment of each Great Start Collaborative will identify the population to be served, with the portion of the funds designated for early childhood programming, and additional funds designated for home visit programs to serve at-risk children and their families.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

In 2015-2016, a total of \$15,600,000 will be distributed:

State School Aid (section 32p)	\$ 13,400,000
Child Care and Development Fund	\$ 2,200,000

STATUTE

- Section 32p of the State School Aid Act, Public Act 85 of 2015
- Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as amended, Public Law 111-117
- Section 32d(4) of the State School Aid Act, Public Act 85 of 2015

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Great Start

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